



MEMO

Date: September 13, 2017
To: Rick Muma, Senior Associate Vice President for Academic Affairs and Strategic Enrollment Management
CC: Ron Matson, Dean of the Fairmount College of Liberal Arts and Sciences
From: Dennis Livesay, Dean of the Graduate School and Associate Vice President of Research and Technology Transfer
Re: Department of Anthropology 3-Year Program Review

This review is part of the 3-year review process of the Department of Anthropology at Wichita State University. As Dean of the Graduate School, my review and recommendations will be primarily limited to the master's program. I am impressed by the completeness and thoughtfulness of this document, especially as related to program specific learning outcomes, strategies, and analyses. In fact, I believe this is the only 3-year program review document that I have ever read that includes dedicated attention to a graduate certificate.

I understand that the department has undergone a lot of turnover recently, and that can be disruptive. It is also an opportunity to define a new path forward. Some of that new path is discussed in this document (e.g., the 'reshaping' discussed in section 5a). However, the overall vision forward does not come through in this document. Currently, I am left wondering where the department is headed. Yes, there is much discussion related to aligning with the university and KBOR missions, but details are lacking. To me, the most effective program review documents tell the plan forward as much as they focus on the retrospective review.

The above point minor point aside, my only concern is related to student satisfaction. The precipitous drop in student satisfaction is alarming, and I am not reassured by the discussion about it in this document. I encourage the department to take bold steps to improve the student experience. In fact, I would welcome the opportunity to discuss strategies with you how we could do so in the MA program.